

THE UNIVERSITY.

SOME BITS FROM ONE OF THE OLD BOYS.

The Grounds and Buildings—The Endowment—The Standard—Moral and Religious Tons.

[Correspondence of the Richmond Dispatch.] UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA, July 2, 1886.

Your correspondent "Quip" has sent you a full report of the University "commencement," but there are a few "dots" which I should be glad to give.

THE GROUND, &c.

As a frequent visitor to the University for the past thirty-five years, I have never seen the grounds more beautiful than at present, and have never been more deeply impressed with their susceptibility of improvement. The State, or liberal friends of the University, should by all means afford the opportunity of employing landscape gardeners, and expending on the grounds the money necessary to make them to the stranger, as they are now to the eyes of an old student, the loveliest that the sun shines on. But to one who recalls at every turn the forms and voices that were wont to haunt the "hallowed ground," and each spot about it bright with memory and consecrated by hope.

The buildings erected in later years have added greatly to the comfort and convenience of the University, but there is pressing need that the new chapel, in its beautiful design, should be finished and other necessary buildings erected.

GIFTS TO THE UNIVERSITY.

The gifts to the University prior to the war outside of the State, amount to \$66,100, the general sentiment seeming to be that it was a State institution the State must support it; but since 1869 gifts have flowed in from various sources until they aggregate the very handsome sum of \$331,100. The annuity of \$40,000 from the State added to the revenue from all other sources makes the annual income of the university about \$121,700. This would seem to the uninitiated a very large and amply sufficient sum, but one has only to examine into the matter a little to see that this is far from being sufficient, and that men of means who desire to "invest in immortal mind" could not do better than to make bequests to the University.

Among the more liberal benefactions to the University since the war are the following: W. W. Corcoran, \$106,000; Lewis Brooks, of Rochester, N. Y., (for the Museum), \$68,000; Leander J. McCormick, (for telescope and observatory), \$68,000; William H. Vanderbilt, \$25,000, and many friends of the University, \$50,000, to endow the directorship of the observatory—\$75,000 in all; bequest of the late John Cary, \$25,000; \$47,000 from the State, to erect a chapel; \$15,000; bequest of the late Arthur W. Austin, of Dedham, Mass., (not yet available), about \$47,000; gift of Samuel W. Miller, of Lynchburg, \$100,000 (for Department in Agriculture); gift, by will, of the late Douglas H. Gordon, of Baltimore, \$5,000.

MORAL AND RELIGIOUS.

It was gratifying to hear of the general good conduct of the students and the high moral and religious tone among them. About one hundred and twenty-five of them were members of the Young Men's Christian Association, and during the attendance upon the chapel services of Dr. George B. Taylor had been good, three mission Sunday schools and a number of prayer-meetings have been maintained, and the library and reading-room is one of the best to be found.

It was very encouraging to note the very decided religious and evangelical tone which pervaded the addresses of both Colonel Breckinridge and Judge Remond, to witness the emphatic approval of both faculty and students.

In the alumni meeting the chaplain, Dr. Taylor, (in seconding the nomination of a brother preacher for orator next year), said: "I do not favor him because he is a preacher, for I want no better preaching than we had on yesterday and to-day," (alluding to the address of Colonel Breckinridge and Judge Fenner).

By the way, I heard some very pleasant things said of the ability and efficiency of Dr. Taylor in the chaplaincy which he is now filling for a second term.

STANDARD OF SCHOLARSHIP.

Not even our own people, in their praise of the richly-endowed colleges at the North, appreciate the extent and thoroughness of the course, and the high standard of scholarship required in the graduation of our Association. The degree of Honorary degree are forbidden by the laws of the University, and the man who bears off a diploma here has to accomplish it by hard work and high attainments. There is not another institution on the continent that requires more of its graduates.

It was very gratifying to see the high stand taken by several of our students, and Mr. Archer Anderson, Jr., son of Colonel Archer Anderson, graduated on what is now called "the green ticket"—Latin, Greek, and mathematics. (In ante-bellum days "the green ticket" was Latin, Greek, mathematics, and two modern languages, and Colonel Archer Anderson graduated on this ticket the first session he went to the University; but the boys claim, and no doubt justly, that it is much harder now than then.) Mr. J. H. O. Bagby, son of the lamented Dr. George W. Bagby, graduated in Latin, French, and mathematics, and took a distinction on Greek. Mr. Wallace F. Brown graduated on Latin and Greek, and took a distinction on general chemistry. Mr. J. R. A. Hobson graduated on mathematics, and took a distinction on Latin. Mr. Mathew F. Maury graduated on law, and Dr. Julian Cabell graduated in medicine.

It was very pleasant to note that a very large proportion of the graduates were sons of alumni. "Instead of the fathers shall be their children."

The influence which the University has had and is now having in elevating the standard of education in the State and in the whole South can scarcely be exaggerated.

THE ALUMNI LUNCH. An unusually large number of the alumni gathered at the commencement, and attended the elegant lunch provided by the Albemarle alumni for their visiting brethren and their guests. The president of the society, Charles Blackford, Esq., of Lynchburg, presided with easy grace and ready wit. Governor Lee, Judge Fenner, Professor A. F. Fleet, of the University of Missouri; Hon. A. H. H. Stuart, rector of the University; Mr. James L. Gordon, of Charlottesville; Mr. W. R. Abbott, of Bellevue Hill School; Colonel Charles B. Venable, of the University of Louisville; (Master of Arts for this session); Dr. J. William Jones, of Richmond, responded to the regular toast, and it is fair to say that the toast was drunk none the less heartily, the speeches were none the less sparkling, and the occasion was none the less enjoyable, because we "filled our bumpers" with only the pure water with which the new reservoir is now supplying the University, and which, Mr. Blackford facetiously said, "Colonel Venable wanted the guests to sample."

Governor Lee had an enthusiastic reception and was cheered to the echo wherever he appeared.

The whole commencement was pronounced the best we have had for years, and if the opinion of one who has attended every commencement there, except four, since 1851 is worth anything, I do not hesitate to say that it was, on the whole, one of the best I ever witnessed.

LAWLEY.

THE SOUTH SIDE.

CHANGES IN THE MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT—THE NEW COUNCIL.

A Democratic Protest—Damage by the Rain—A Year's Loss by Fire—Shooting.

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